

Issue: (b) (5)

Background:

- The ex-*Independence* is an aircraft carrier that was decommissioned in 1998 and is docked in Sinclair Inlet at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. The ship is non-operational, has not been routinely cleaned or maintained, and has significant hull fouling.
- Last year, the Navy began formulating plans to tow and dismantle the ship. As part of the project, the Navy consulted with NMFS HQ, who imposed a requirement to clean the ship's hull prior to towing (to avoid spreading invasive species during transport). The cleaning of the ship is scheduled to begin tomorrow (Jan. 5).
- Region 10 was made aware of the proposed plans from the Susquamish Tribe, (b) (5)
- (b) (5)
- In 2008, we concluded that (b) (5)
- (b) (5)
- There are other similarly situated vessels that may be towed and dismantled in the future, as part of the Navy's Inactive Ships Program. There may also be vessels whose ownership has transferred to MARAD.

(b) (5)

Discussion:

- (b) (5)

- (b) (5) [REDACTED]
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